

image

251

DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN





PAUL JENKINS
TODD McFARLANE
DIALOGUE

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ART

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COLOR

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LETTERING

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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN RESURRECTION

Five years ago, Al Simmons removed himself to a state of limbo by means of suicide. But what tragic revelation could persuade him to finally return to the city, and how is this connected to the very creation of humanity? After finding out the events of his past was all a calculated maneuver, including the death of his wife and unborn child, Al vows vengeance and begins the journey to taking his life back.

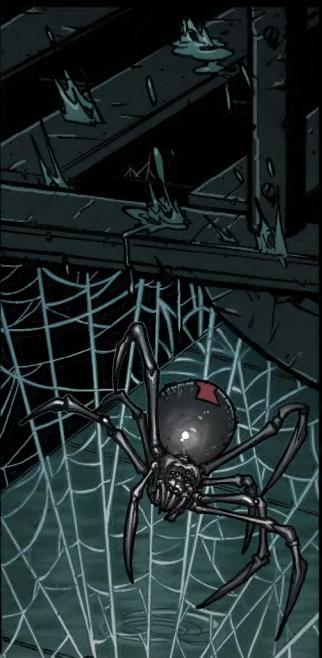
HUMANS. EVERY DAY WE EXIST IS AN EXPERIMENT.

SOMETIMES THAT EXPERIMENT WORKS THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED.

OTHER TIMES, IT DEVIATES FROM THAT COURSE. BUT THROUGH IT ALL, 'THE STRONG SURVIVE.' AND THE STRONGER YOU ARE, THE BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.

THE THING IS, NO MATTER HOW BIG YOU MIGHT BE, OR HOW STRONG YOU ARE...

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU ARE.



AND IF THAT SOMEONE DECIDES TO BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE THEY THINK YOU HAVE WRONGED THEM... TO HUMILIATE THEM... THEY WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO PROVE THEY ARE YOUR SUPERIOR ON EVERY LEVEL.

YET THE STRONGEST CAN, AT TIMES, BE COWARDS. CHOOSING INSTEAD TO TAKE THEIR EMOTIONS OUT ON THE WEAKEST, MOST INNOCENT AROUND THEM. HOPING THOSE ATTACKS WILL ENRAGE THEIR ACTUAL ENEMY.

SO IF A WOMAN... A WIFE NEEDS TO PAY THE PRICE FOR HER HUSBAND, SO BE IT! AND EVEN IF THAT WOMAN WAS CARRYING AN UNBORN CHILD AT THE TIME, IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE ONLY THING THAT DOES, IS GETTING THE ATTENTION OF YOUR ENEMY.

BUT NOT EVERY ONE OF YOUR ENEMIES COWER. THERE ARE SOME WHO WILL RISE AND DEFY YOU, WHO WILL FIGHT BACK TO HELP PROTECT THEIR LOVED ONES WITH EVERY OUNCE OF POWER THEY HAVE, BECAUSE THE DAY THEY ALLOW HARM TO THOSE THEY LOVE MOST...

...THEY KNOW WHAT DAY THAT IS!



A
COLD day in
HELL



WHY WOULD
WE SNITCH 'EM
OUT TO YOU?

BECAUSE I'M GUESSING
THERE WERE A FEW OF THOSE TYPES
THAT DIDN'T BELONG HERE. AND I'M
ALSO GUESSING WHAT THEY DID ONLY
MADE THINGS WORSE AROUND HERE
FOR YOU. FOR EVERYONE THAT LIVES
HERE. SO WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE TO
PAY THE PRICE TO THE COPS FOR
THEIR ACTIONS.

YOU HELP ME AND
I'LL MAKE SURE THAT GANG
NEVER STEPS FOOT IN THESE
STREETS AGAIN.

WHAT
MAKES YOU
SUCH A
BADASS?

SAME THING
THAT MAKES YOU
ONE...ANGER. AT THOSE
ALWAYS TRYING TO
CONTROL WHAT
WE DO.

CHECK
DOWN THE
STREET. NEAR
JIMMY'S POOL
HALL.

I SAW A FEW
OF THEM STILL
HANGING NEAR THERE.
YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR
ANGER OUT ON THEM,
BE MY GUEST.

'CAUSE MY BOY
GOT SHOT AND THAT'S
WHAT I'M CONCERNED
ABOUT. HE WAS JUST WALKING
HOME. MINDING HIS OWN
BUSINESS. INSTEAD THEY POPPED
HIM AND LEFT HIM BLEEDING IN
THE STREETS LIKE AN ANIMAL. AND
IF THEY DON'T WATCH OUT, WE
GOIN' RIOT AGAIN. ONLY THIS
TIME, THE COPS ARE GOING TO
BE THE ONES WHO'RE
AFRAID.

...the
hell?

WE WANT
EVERYONE OUT
OF HERE. THE
NEWS PEOPLE, THE
DEMONSTRATORS
THAT GOT BUSED IN.
ALL OF THEM. YOU
CAN EVEN TAKE THAT
WHITE CRACKER
AND HIS DOG
WITH YOU.

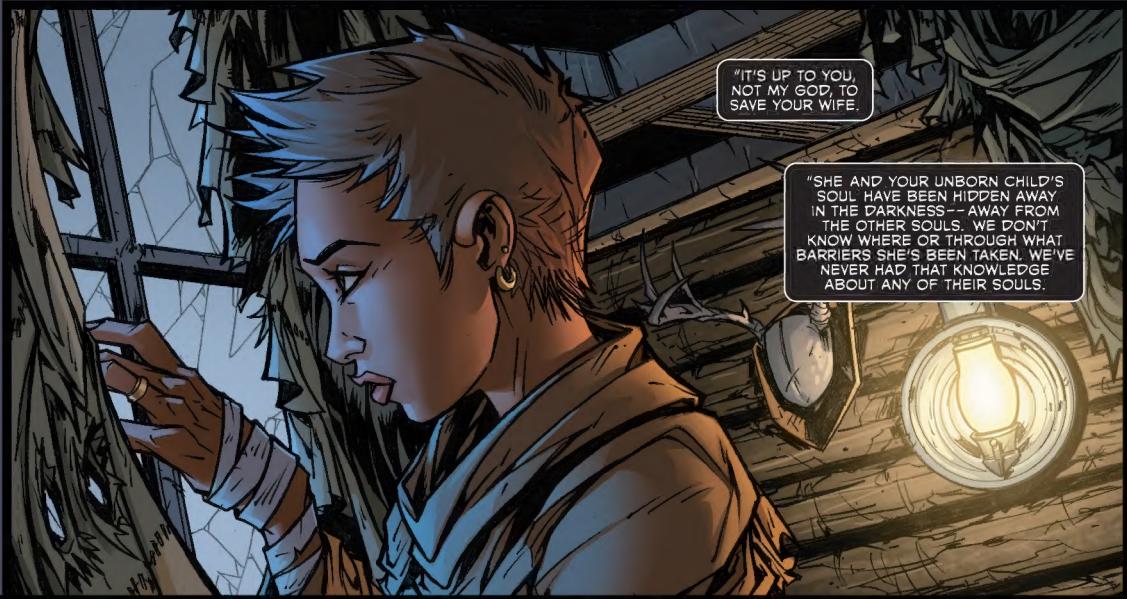
HE
DEFINITELY
DON'T
BELONG
HERE.

WHAT...









"SHE AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S SOUL HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY IN THE DARKNESS -- AWAY FROM THE OTHER SOULS. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OR THROUGH WHAT BARRIERS SHE'S BEEN TAKEN. WE'VE NEVER HAD THAT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANY OF THEIR SOULS."





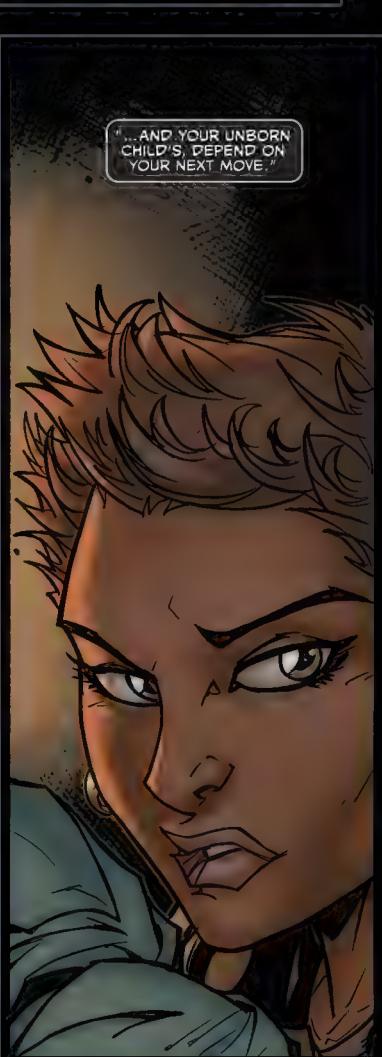
"BUT ALSO TO PROTECT THE SOULS OF THOSE INNOCENT LIVES WHO NEVER WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO LIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE."



"SO, IF YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR WIFE, THEN I'D SUGGEST YOU STOP WASTING YOUR TIME WITH ME AND START MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION."



"YOUR WIFE'S EXISTENCE...



"...AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S, DEPEND ON YOUR NEXT MOVE."







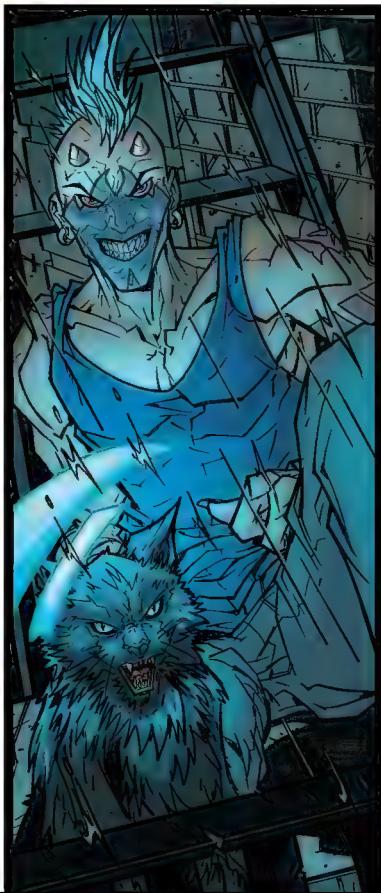














An hour later.







EVERYTHING!

I HAD TO
GIVE UP
EVERYTHING
I EVER WAS.



SPAWNING GROUND

Hello all,

After the celebration of hitting the #250 milestone and introducing our new *Spawn* creative team in *Spawn Resurrection*, we are back on track with *Spawn* #251. In only 50 more issues, Todd will have one of the LONGEST RUNNING INDEPENDENT COMICS in history.

Although things are slowing down in *Spawn* news, Todd has a NEW comic debuting this month. *Savior* #1 hits shelves April 15th with beautifully painted pages by Clayton Crain and co-written by Todd and Brian Holguin.

For those of you who need a refresher on who Brian and Clayton are, we'll see if we can bring you up to speed. Both of them have done extensive work in comics, and both also have a history with Todd.

Brian began his collaboration with Todd writing *Spawn* in 1998. He continued in that role until 2005, creating many memorable moments. Brian has also worked on *KISS: Psycho Circus*, *Aria*, *Jim Henson's Dark Crystal: Creation Myths*, and *Spawn: Godslayer* comics.

Clayton Crain is a well-known comic industry top talent. His resume is extensive with highlights containing prominent titles such as *X-Force*, *Ghost Rider*, and *Carnage*. Crain's previous work with Todd also includes *KISS: Psycho Circus* and *Curse of the Spawn*. He also lends a hand creating breathtaking covers for the *Spawn: Origins* collected editions. Clayton is currently working for Valiant Comics on the popular comic, *Rai*.

For this week's Spawning Ground, we are finishing up answering Reddit questions. There were so many good questions, we didn't want to leave any out. As always, if you have a question you would like Todd to answer, you can either write to letterspage@mcfarlane.com or go on Todd's Facebook (facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane) or Twitter (@Todd_McFarlane).

Enjoy!

Shannon Bailey

Publishing Coordinator

Will *Spawn* ever return to HBO or the big screen?

Metsfan718

Hopefully he'll get back on the big screen and then immediately follow up with him being back on television, but not necessarily HBO.

TODD

How did you get started in the art world and how do you find inspiration for your day-to-day work?

Courtierbaby420

I started collecting comics when I was about 16 years old. Then taught myself how to draw superheroes. When I went to college, I sent out about 700 submissions and received about 350 rejections, and I still have a lot of them. Eventually somebody said yes. So after 350 "no's" I got one "yes" and I was in the business! My persistence and some stubbornness paid off. I think that we all have some kind of skill in us. But maybe I look at the world slightly different than everybody else. I take what's in front of me, twist it, and turn it into some big melodramatic fantasy story.

TODD

When can we expect the next printing of *Spawn Origins* Hardcover #1?

Brandon_Storm

Well, we just released the entire 250-issue library digitally in January for the first time. I'd been holding out for 2 decades on that. So we made that move and we didn't want digital downloads to interfere by putting out a new *Origins* book. We'll probably do another *Origins*

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book later in the year, once we let the digital stuff take off.

TODD

What do you consider the best thing you ever wrote or have drawn? Do you think your artistic talent and creativity helps with business decisions since you tend to come from a different direction?

Ckelly54

I'm naive enough to think that the future will be my better artwork. But I wrote a single contained story about a dad who was abusive to his kids, (so a bit of a personal story about just some topics that got me wound-up). And I thought that issue from a storytelling perspective was really good. I thought *Spider-Man* was pretty good artistically. I think being an athlete, being competitive, and having to always earn my position made me very focused - not only as an artist, with my deadlines, but also now as a businessman.

TODD

Will there be a *Spawn* Universe where the different Spawns will come together for a joint venture? Spawn League of America?

Luoy_panda

No.

TODD

What are some key dos and don'ts to getting a comic ready to submit to Image?

Stavius

Concentrate on storytelling more than any other element. Which simply means don't worry about drawing pretty pictures. Make an engaging story.

TODD

Do you think you will at some point do a complete reboot back to a #1 issue?
Denzalo

The simple answer is: no, never. The biggest reason is that ALL of the other companies have been doing that. So currently I have the highest book in the NATION! Issue #250 just came out and the only way to get the 250 issues is by putting in over 20 years of your life. One per month, times twenty years still isn't even 250. So I'm not willing to throw away 20 years of my life for an arbitrary number in the corner of my book.

TODD

As a former owner of the Edmonton Oilers, what's your opinion of the team under Katz's ownership? Is there anything you would change immediately?

OhHelloPlease

Well, the Oilers are an NHL franchise, so they've fallen on tough times here since we sold it to the new guy. He gets to make the decisions, he's the boss now. And I would probably change a few things, if I was the boss, but I'm not. So I'll let him have all the credit and the criticism, because it's his game right now.

TODD



NEXT ISSUE

What if everything you thought you ever knew was a lie? Armed with the Sword of the Spirit, Spawn discovers the true secret of his infernal suit, and his connection to those innocent souls he has unwittingly damned to eternal torment.



SPAWN®

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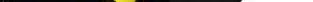
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—COMIC BOOK RESOURCES

“THESE WEREN’T GOING TO BE THE BULBOUS NOSE, BROOM-RIDING HALLOWEEN CARICATURES. THESE WITCHES ARE A CANNIBALISTIC, SKELETAL RACE THAT HIDE IN THE FOREST.”

—NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

“DARK AND BRUTAL... WYTCHES ARE LIKE NOTHING HORROR FANS HAVE EVER SEEN.”

—USA TODAY

“THE WRITER ISN’T JUST COMPLETELY REINVENTING WITCHES... HE’S DIVING DEEP INTO VERY REAL FEARS ABOUT BEING A PARENT, AND THE UGLINESS THAT HIDES IN ALL OF US.”

—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

“CREEPY AND GREAT.”

—JEFF LEMIRE

“CERTAIN PANELS MAY GIVE YOU NIGHTMARES.”

—IO9

“VERY, VERY SCARY... THE SCARES LIE MUCH DEEPER THAN THE FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT RUSH OF OUTSIDE FORCES HURTING OR MAIMING. MUCH LIKE THE WORKS OF MARY SHELLEY AND THE OTHER WRITERS OF THE VILLA DIODATI.”

—PASTE MAGAZINE

“MONUMENTAL.”

—BLOODY DISGUSTING

“AS MUCH ABOUT THE DEEPEST FEARS PARENTS FACE AS IT IS ABOUT SPOOKY MONSTERS IN THE WOODS.”

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W y t c h e s

snyder • jock • hollingsworth • robins

volume 1 • may 2015



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ELLIS • SHALVEY • BELLAIRE

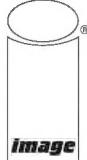
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